

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22 - 47 are pending. Claims 22 - 47 have been added. Claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 21 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 7 - 13 and 19 - 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, First Paragraph. Claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph. Claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 for allegedly being anticipated by Iwata et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,499,380). Claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 21 have been canceled without prejudice.

Independent claims 22, 27, and 32 are directed to a method of memory access.

Independent claims 38, 42, 45, and 46 are directed to apparatus for memory access.

Steps recited in claim 22 "for accessing a first datum stored in a memory" are shown in Fig. 3, as explained on page 6, lines 1 - 5 in the specification as originally filed.

Steps recited in claim 27 "for accessing a datum stored in a memory" are shown in Fig. 5, as explained on page 7, lines 1 - 19 in the specification as originally filed.

Steps recited in claim 32 "for accessing a datum stored in a memory" are shown in Fig. 13, as explained on page 20, lines 7 - 17 in the specification as originally filed.

An illustrative embodiment of the invention as recited in claims 38, 42, 45, and 46 is shown in Figs. 3, 5, and 11, as explained on page 6, lines 1 - 5, page 7, lines 1 - 19, and page 18, line 1 - page 19, line 15 in the specification as originally filed.

The claims recite data access such that "the first datum as stored in the memory can be an aligned datum or an unaligned datum." There is no determination as to whether the data being accessed is aligned data or unaligned data. By contrast Iwata et al. describe a read access for aligned data and a read access for unaligned data. Fig. 8 of Iwata et al. shows access without crossing a word boundary (aligned data). Fig. 9 of Iwata et al. shows access with crossing a word boundary (unaligned data). Fig. 10 of Iwata et al. shows process steps for data access. There is a step S3 which determines whether there was a word crossing signal. Thus, whereas Iwata et al. provide separate processing for aligned data (Fig. 8) and for unaligned data

(Fig. 9), the present invention as recited in the claims does not include such a determination. Iwata et al. do not show accessing data from memory without having to determine whether the data is aligned or unaligned. For at least this reason, Iwata et al. do not anticipate the invention as presently claimed.

Fig. 8 of Iwata et al. show a sign or zero extension operation being performed prior to a shift operation. By contrast, the claims (e.g., claims 22 and 27) recite a rotation operation to produce rotated data, and an operation to replace portions of the rotated data with zeroes. Iwata et al. do not show a rotate operation. Iwata et al. do not show a rotate operation that is followed by an operation of replacing with zeroes. For at least this reason Iwata et al. do not anticipate the invention as presently claimed.

Fig. 9 of Iwata et al. show a sign or zero extension followed by a right rotate operation. By contrast, the claims (e.g., claim 22 and 27) recite a rotation operation to produce rotated data, and an operation to replace portions of the rotated data with zeroes. Iwata et al. do not show a rotate operation that is followed by an operation of replacing with zeroes. For at least this reason Iwata et al. do not anticipate the invention as presently claimed.

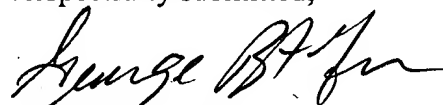
A further aspect of the invention is "performing a first rotation operation on the first bytes to produce rotated first bytes, wherein a rotate distance of the first rotation operation is based on whether the datum stored in the memory is stored in Big Endian order or in Little Endian order." Claim 32. Claim 46 also recites this aspect of the invention. Iwata et al. do not appear to discuss Big Endian or Little Endian order, and therefore do not anticipate this aspect of the invention as recited in the claims.

CONCLUSION

The claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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